

# VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
800/842-2610, extension 3745 Mary Ann Wilson, Director [www.hud.gov/virginia](http://www.hud.gov/virginia)

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## **BARRIER BUSTERS**

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson has launched a new national awards program to "recognize local governments for reducing regulatory barriers to affordable housing." He says barrier elimination is "opening more doors to homeownership for hard working families." The Affordable Communities Awards are open to state and local governments that have "demonstrated extraordinary achievements" in removing barriers. Nominations are due March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005. More information can be found at [www.hud.gov/affordablecommunities.gov](http://www.hud.gov/affordablecommunities.gov). HUD also maintains a clearinghouse of accounts of efforts to remove barriers at [www.regbarriers.gov](http://www.regbarriers.gov)

## **HUD-dy KILLOWATT**

Want to help homebuyers save energy and money? Well, try HUD's Energy Efficient Mortgage. Find out more at HUD Richmond's "Intro to EEM" workshop at the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals' 4<sup>th</sup> annual Roanoke Energy Fair at the Roanoke Civic Center on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. To register, contact Lee Jones at [leland\\_jones@hud.gov](mailto:leland_jones@hud.gov) or 800/842-2610, ext. 3743. Continuing education credit is available for real estate agents licensed by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupation Regulation.

## **FARE WELL**

HUD Richmond Director Mary Ann Wilson has announced that at year's end she'll be retiring after more than 43 years in the Federal service, including 14 as HUD Richmond's Director. She also served HUD in Philadelphia, Seattle, Little Rock, New York City, Atlanta and Headquarters. She plans to remain active in the community and see some parts of the world she's never seen before.

## **BRIEF BRIEFS**

Applications for \$55 million in "below-market" SPARC funds to build affordable, single-family homes due Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at VHDA . . . Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> *Federal Register* publishes final rule on procedures mortgagees and underwriters must use to access TOTAL Scorecard automated underwriting system . . . Wythe County is latest Virginia local government to move to purchase a HUD Good Neighbor Home for rehabilitation and re-sale . . . November 3<sup>rd</sup> *Federal Register* says applications for \$120 million in new HOPE VI Revitalization Grants - plus \$20 million in Housing Choice Vouchers - are due February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. . . With help from cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, Federal Home Loan Bank Board of Atlanta, Beazley and Parsons foundations, DHCD and HUD, work begins on The Sanderling in Chesapeake to offer 20 apartments for persons with disabilities. . . HUD Secretary Jackson says October's 6.4 percent jump in housing starts shows "that housing is at the forefront of our nation's economic recovery". . . HUD selects Richmond as one of 25 "Safe & Healthy Homes Communities" across the country. . . Microsoft donates \$1 million in software to Appalachian Regional Commission initiative to increase broadband capacities in rural communities. . . Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing's Web site wins 2004 Spotlight Award from League of American Communications Professionals. . . Alliance to Save Old Richmond Neighborhoods holds "sell-a-bration" homebuying event in Manchester neighborhood . . . Governor Warner names Mike Eisenman as Director of Virginia Department of Business Assistance . . . November 8<sup>th</sup> *Federal Register* "streamlines" Annual Plan submissions for high-performing housing authorities operating less than 250 units and authorities that only administer voucher programs . . . HUD settles Secretary-initiated investigation of developers in Falls Church alleged to be discriminating against families with schoolchildren. . . FEMA and Virginia Department of Emergency Management okay almost \$1.3 million to help residents of Salem and Roanoke and Allegheny, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Patrick and Roanoke counties recover from Tropical Storm Jeanne . . . HUD and EPA settle with WinnRessidential Limited Partnership and affiliates to pay \$105,000 fine and to abate lead-paint hazards in 10,400 units, including 298 in Richmond . . . Richmond Affordable Housing, Southside Community Development & Housing, Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing and People, Inc., win 2004 EDGE Awards from Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta to cut interest costs on \$4.1 million in projects. . . Community Housing Partners, Highland Park Community Development Corporation, Homestretch and New Hope Housing win awards at Governor's Housing Conference in Norfolk.

## **FHA OKAYS HIGHER LOAN LIMITS IN WINCHESTER AREA**

HUD has approved a 48 percent increase in the maximum mortgage that can be insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), a part of HUD in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, and Hampshire County, West Virginia. The increase is effective immediately and is based on a request and recent home sales data submitted to HUD by the Blue Ridge Association of REALTORS. As a result of HUD's decision, the FHA mortgage insurance limit on one-family homes will rise to \$237,500; on two-family homes will rise to \$267,500; on three-family homes to \$325,000; and on four-family homes to \$375,000. The higher FHA loan limits will not cost the government any money, because the FHA Insurance Fund is fully supported by premiums paid by borrowers who receive FHA insurance. Over the last 10 years, FHA has insured some 4,000 mortgages in the Winchester-Frederick-Hampshire area.

## **NOTEWORTHY NEWS FROM NORFOLK**

More than 800 housing and community development officials attending the Governor's Housing Conference in Norfolk heard Governor Mark Warner pledge \$1 million in HOME funds over next two years to TAP in Roanoke, Piedmont Housing Alliance in Charlottesville and Waynesboro Redevelopment & Housing to address chronic homelessness, \$350,000 to Assistive Technology Loan Fund to improve accessibility of housing for elderly and persons with disabilities in southwest Virginia, and creation of community development bank to finance "projects that address critical community needs but are unable to secure financing through traditional means." Governor also unveiled Virginia Housing Registry at [www.accessva.org](http://www.accessva.org) to help disabled Virginians locate affordable, accessible housing.

## **CONTINUUM BUILDING**

Are the needs of the homeless in your community being met? Would you like to form a HUD Continuum of Care so that it would be eligible to apply for HUD Continuum of Care funds? Then attend HUD Richmond's free, Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Continuum Building workshop at the Holiday Inn in Charlottesville. To register, contact Bob Jennings or Bill Burnham at 800/842-2610.

## **DON'T FORGET**

The November 23<sup>rd</sup> *Federal Register* published a proposed rule that "establishes the requirement for applicants for HUD grants or certain other financial assistance to submit their applications to HUD electronically through the federal government grant portal, Grants.gov." Comments on the proposal are due December 23<sup>rd</sup> and it's likely the final rule will be in effect for HUD's 2005 SuperNOFA. Make sure your organization is ready to e-pete in 2005. Contact Lee Jones at [leland\\_jones@hud.gov](mailto:leland_jones@hud.gov) for more information.